Policy to set up SSI/cottage industries on Japan pattern

71. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated steps to formulate a comprehensive policy for setting up of Small Scale/Cottage industries on the pattern of Japan in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date;

(c) the time by when it is likely to be implemented in the country; and

(d) what are the specific reasons for not formulating such a policy in the country on the same pattern as being implemented in Japan?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Over a period of time India, like other countries such as Japan, has evolved its unique policy for promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises (earlier called Small Scale Industries). The evolution of the Indian policy can be accessed at *www.dcmsme.gov.in*. Recently the Government has announced a Package for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) which, *inter- alia*, contains promotional support measures through legislation, credit, fiscal, cluster, technology and quality upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial and managerial training, empowerment of women, Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and strengthening of data base. This Package has been formulated keeping in view the requirements for enhancing competitiveness of MSEs in Indian environment. The implementation of the above Package for Promotion of MSEs has already been inititated after its announcement in both the Houses of the Parliament.

Fast speed trains

72. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start fast speed trains;

(b) the sectors/divisions where these trains are proposed to be started;

(c) whether necessary technical reports have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present Ministry of Railways has proposed to initiate process of commissioning pre-feasibility studies for one corridor each in Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern part of the country.

(b) The sectors (corridors) will be decided in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

(c) Pre-feasibility survey will involve technical reports also.

(d) Does not arise.

Rail coach factory in North-Eastern Region

73. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up new railway coach factories in the country, particularly in the North-Eastern Regions during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details and the locations thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a new railway coach factory in North Eastern Region. However, a new Rail Coach Factory at Rae Bareily, Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned in the year 2006-07 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 1685 crores.

Proposals received from Punjab to construct overhead bridges and underground passages

74. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Punjab Government and local bodies in the State for the construction of overhead bridges and underground passages along the rail tracks, pending with the Railways at present;

(b) the number out of them that are pending for more than one year, as on 31st October, 2007; and

(c) the number of cases that are likely to be cleared by the end of this financial year and the time likely to be taken to complete work on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Six proposals have been received out of which one is on cost sharing basis and 5 on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT)/Deposit Terms.

(b) Two proposals, one on cost sharing basis and another on BOT concept are pending.

(c) Final sanction by Railways depends on the State Govt's. submission of firm proposals duly fulfilling the required conditions in the requisite format. No time for completion of such work can be given at this stage as works have not been sanctioned. The completion of Road over bridges also depends on completion of approaches by the State Government. However, Railways will make all out efforts to complete their portion of work before or simultaneously with the work of approaches to be done by State Government after the works are sanctioned.

Rail connections to hilly areas of Uttarakhand

75. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to connect all hilly regions of Uttarakhand by rail particularly from Kotdwara to Pauri and from Haridwar to Badrinath temple;

(b) whether Government would like to connect all pilgrim places of hilly areas by train; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Dose not arise.